

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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R 010834Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 829
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3572

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR YO
SUBJ: RUMORED CREATION OF POLITICAL BUREAU

1. MONTHS OF SPECULATION ABOUT CREATION OF A POLITICAL BUREAU
WITHIN LCY HAVE RECEIVED THEIR MOST CONCRETE EXPRESSION TO
DATE IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE CONSCIOUS LEAK BY LCY OFFICIAL
TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT. ASSISTANT TO LCY EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEMBER TODO KURTOVIC TOLD SWEDISH CORRESPONDENT
KLAUS BERGMAN MAY 31 THAT PARTY HAS NOW DECIDED TO CREATE SEVEN-
MEMBER GROUP WITH PRESENT WORKING NAME OF POLITICAL BUREAU.
MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE TITO, KARDELJ, BAKARIC, DOLANC, STAMBOLIC
PLUS TWO AS YET UNNAMED FIGURES. DOLANC WOULD
"LEAD THE WORK" OF THIS BODY BUT HE WOULD LEAVE HIS POST AS
PARTY SECRETARY. THE EXISTING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LCY
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WOULD BE REPLACED BY A SECRETARIAT TO BE HEADED BY BRANKO
MIKULIC, CURRENTLY HEAD OF THE BOSNIAN PARTY. THE
PARTY PRESIDUM WOULD BE CUT IN HALF TO 22 MEMBERS.
PARTY STATUTES WOULD BE ALTERED TO ACCOMMODATE THESE
CHANGES TOWARD THE END OF JUNE.

2. COMMENT: BELGRADE AS ANY OTHER CAPITAL IS RIPE

WITH RUMORS WHICH ULTIMATELY TURN OUT TO BE FALSE. (NOTE: THIS ONE COULD BE SELF-SERVING AS IT IS FROM BOSNIAN, PROBABLY PRO-MIKULIC SOURCE.) IN PARTICULAR WE WONDER WHETHER TITO WOULD WANT TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A MAJOR CHANGE BEFORE THE 11TH PARTY CONGRESS NEXT YEAR AS HE IN GENERAL PLACES SUCH EMPHASIS ON CONTINUITY AND STABILITY. NEVERTHELESS IF RUMOR TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE WOULD SEEM TO BE IN IMPLICATIONS FOR DOLANCE, THESE ARE BOTH GOOD AND BAD. ON THE ONE HAND HE WOULD FOR THE FIRST TIME BE FORMALLY ELEVATED TO THAT GROUP OF ELDER STATESMEN LIKE KARDELJ AND BAKARIC WHO WITH TITO ACTUALLY RUN THIS COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND BY BRINGING HIS LONG TERM RIVAL MIKULIC TO BELGRADE AND GIVING HIM ORGANIZATIONAL POWER AS OPERATING HEAD OF THE LCY SECRETARIAT, TITO WOULD BE CONTINUING TO SUSTAIN RIVALRIES TO SUCCESSION. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH OUR CANDIDATES FOR THE TWO UNNAMED SEATS ON THE POLITICAL BUREAU WOULD BE GENERAL LJUBICIC AND ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT GLIGOROV. YORK

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